

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 03636 01 OF 02 011732Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08
COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 OPIC-03 JUSE-00 /087 W
-----011813 094601 /43

O R 011535Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2288

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CAIRO 3636

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD

SUBJ: ARAB BOYCOTT

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REF: (A) STATE 43697, (B) STATE 43693

SUMMARY: DUE UNAVAILABILITY EITHER FAHMY OR MINSTATE
MOHAMED RIAD, I CALLED ON MFA UNDER SECRETARY
AHMED OSMAN TODAY TO GIVE HIM COPY OF SECRETARY'S
STATEMENT AND TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTARY POINTS. OSMAN

LISTENED CAREFULLY AND UNDERTOOK REPORT DEMARCHE TO FAHMY. (I WILL ALSO RAISE SUBJECT WITH FAHMY WHEN I NEXT SEE HIM). OSMAN NOTED GOE HAS ALWAYS TAKEN PRAGMATIC VIEW OF BOYCOTT. IT DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST AMERICANS ON BEHALF OF RELIGION, RACE OR NATIONAL ORIGIN. PERSONS OF JEWISH FAITH ARE ROUTINELY GIVEN VISAS AND ENCOUNTER NO PROBLEMS HERE. OSMAN WAS SOMEWHAT BITTER, HOWEVER, ABOUT WHAT HE VIEWED AS EFFORT ON PART OF CONGRESS TO DEPRIVE ARABS OF ONE OF THEIR FEW WEAPONS, E.G., BOYCOTT, TO PRESS ISRAEL ARRIVE AT A SETTLEMENT. CONGRESSIONAL ACTION, HE CONTENDED, IS AT BEHEST OF ISRAEL AND PRO-ISRAELI LOBBY. IN CONTRAST, CONGRESS DOES NOTHING TO ENSURE RETURN OF OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES. NEVERTHELESS, OSMAN PERSONALLY ENDORSED IDEA OF POSITIVE CERTIFICATION. HE THOUGH FAHMY WILL WANT TO REVIEW EGYPTIAN POLICY WITH A VIEW TO TRYING TO BE HELPFUL, BUT WITHOUT COMPROMISING GOE PRINCIPLES. OSMAN EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT BOYCOTT SHOULD BE PART OF GENERAL ME SETTLEMENT. HE CAUTIONED THAT, WHILE MOST ARAB STATES HAVE RECENTLY SHOWN A WILLINGNESS TO FOLLOW EGYPT'S EXAMPLE VIS-A-VIS BOYCOTT, PROPOSED LEGISLATION COULD CAUSE STIFFENING OF ARAB ATTITUDES. END SUMMARY

1. WITH FAHMY, MINSTATE MOHAMED RIAD AND THEIR PRINCIPAL AIDES OUT OF THE COUNTRY, I WAS UNABLE MEET YESTERDAY WITH ANY APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL MFA OFFICIAL TO DISCUSS REF SUBJECT. ALTHOUGH FAHMY WAS BACK TODAY, HE HAS BEEN WITH SADAT ALL MORNING SEEING ASAD OFF. HENCE, CONFIDENTIAL

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RATHER THAN WAIT, I CALLED ON MFA UNDER SECRETARY AHMED OSMAN TO MAKE REQUESTED DEMARCHE.

2. AFTER GIVING OSMAN COPY OF THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT (REF A), I MADE POINTS IN DETAIL SET FORTH PARA 1, REF B, EMPHASIZING NEW ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTS LEGISLATION AIMED AT ELIMINATING SECONDARY BOYCOTT. PROPOSED LEGISLATION WOULD NOT BE DIRECTED AGAINST ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY OR COUNTRIES, BUT WOULD CONCERN ITSELF SOLELY WITH US COMMERCE AND AMCITS IN ACCORDANCE WITH WIDELY ACCEPTED PRINCIPLES OF AMERICAN CONDUCT. I RECALLED GOE HAS BEEN VERY UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE BOYCOTT AND ALREADY FOLLOWS SOME OF THE SUGGESTIONS WE ARE MAKING TO VARIOUS ARAB GOVERNMENTS.

3. I THEN URGED THAT NEGATIVE CERTIFICATES OR ORIGIN BE REPLACED BY POSITIVE CERTIFICATES FROM AMERICAN EXPORTERS. GOE, I NOTED, IS ALREADY DOING THIS IN MOST INSTANCES AND WE APPRECIATE THIS FACT. NEGATIVE

CERTIFICATES RE IDENTITY OF FIRMS ACTING IN A SECONDARY RELATIONSHIP WITH PRIME SUPPLIERS OR CONTRACTORS OR OF SHIPS TO BE USED IN SHIPMENTS WOULD , WE HOPED, ALSO BE DISCARDED. ADDITIONALLY, I SUGGESTED THAT GOE MIGHT WISH REVIEW AND CONSIDER DISCONTINUING PRACTICE OF ASKING POTENTIAL AMERICAN SUPPLIERS TO RESOND TO QUESTIONS RE THEIR BUSINESS RELAIONSHIPS WITH ANOTHER COUNTRY (I.E. ISRAEL) OR WITH OTHER US FIRMS. THIS PRACTICE, I POINTED OUT, CAN CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT AND HARM TO SUPPLIERS. FINALLY, I NOTED LEGISLATION NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY CONGRESS WOULD PROHIBIT ANY DISCRIMINATION AGAINST US PERSONS ARISING OUT OF FOREIGN BOYCOTT PRACTICES ON BEHALF OF RELIGION, RACE OR NATIONAL ORIGIN. WE HOPED FOR GOE UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION.

4. OSMAN LISTENED CAREFULLY AND HAD HIS AIDE TAKE EXTENSIVE NOTES. HE UNDERTOOK REPORT MY DEMARCHE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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FAHMY AND ALSO TO GIVE FAHMY COPY OF SECRETARY'S STATEMENT. I TILD OSMAN THAT, WHEN I NEXT SEE FAHMY, I WOULD ALSO RAISE MATTER.

5. ISMAN THEN NOTED THAT, AS WE KNEW, GOE HAS ALWAYS TAKEN A PRAGMATIC VIEW OF BOYCOTT PRACTICES. NOR DOES IT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST AMERICANS OR ANYONE ELSE ON THE BASIS OF RELIGION , RACE OR NATIONAL ORIGIN. AS WE KNEW, PERSONS OF JEWISH FAITH ARE REGULARLY GIVEN VISAS AND ENCOUNTER NO PROBLEMS HERE.

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CAIRO 3636

6. WHILE APPRECIATING POINTS I HAD MADE, OSMAN SPOKE WITH SOME BITTERNESS ABOUT WHAT HE CALLED EFFORTS ON THE PART OF THE CONGRESS TO TAKE AWAY FROM THE ARABS ONE CONFIDENTIAL

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OF ITS FEW WEAPONS, NAMELY THE BOYCOTT, TO PRESS THE ISRAELIS TO ARRIVE AT A SETTLEMENT. THE CONGRESS, AS HE SAW IT, WAS CLEARLY ACTING AT THE BEHEST OF ISRAEL AND THE PRO-ISRAELI LOBBY. THIS WAS ITS RIGHT, BUT OSMAN DEPLORED THE FACT THAT THE CONGRESS TAKES NOW COMEPNSATING STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THE ISRAELIS LEAVE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES. I TOLD OSMAN CONGRESS IS ACTING IN RESONSE TO THE STRONG VIEWS OF MOST AMERIDANS THAT SECONDARY BOYBOTT PRACTICES OR DISCRIMINATION ON GROUNDS OF RACE, CREED OR RELIGION ARE REPUGNANT. I ALSO REMINDED HIM THAT THE CONGRESS IS AS INRERESTED AS ANYONE ELSE IN THEME PEACE PROCESS AND HAS SHOWN ITS DEISRE TO HELP EGYPT AS EVIDENCED BY THE SIZEABLE AID APPROPRIATIONS. OSMAN ACKNOWLEDGED THIS TO BE THE CASE, BUT STILL EXPRESSED BITTERNESS THAT THE CONGRESS SHOULD BE DEPRIVING HE ARABS OF ONE OF THEIR FEW WEAPONS AND DING NOTHING TO PRESS THE ISRAELIS TO WITHDRAW FROM OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES.

7. NOTWITHSTANDING HIS PERSONAL BITTERNESS, OSMAN

STATED HE PERSONALLY ENDORSED IDEA OF POSITIVE CERTIFICATION. HE SAID HE WAS SURE FAHMY WOULD WANT TO REVIEW EGYPTIAN POLICY WITH A VIEW TO TRYING TO BE HELPFUL, BUT WITHOUT COMPROMISING PRINCIPLES. THE BOYCOTT, OSMAN ARGUED, SHOULD BE PART OF A GENERAL ME SETTLEMENT AND IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT SECRETARY VANCE HAD ONCE SO INDICATED. NEVERTHELESS, GIVEN THE OBVIOUS INEVITABILITY OF CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION, THE ARAB STATES WOULD HAVE TO SEE WHAT THEY CAN DO. HE THOUGHT MOST ARAB STATES HAVE RECENTLY SHOWN A WILLINGNESS TO FOLLOW EGYPT'S EXAMPLE AND HANDLE BOYCOTT PROBLEMS ON A PRAGMATIC BASIS, BUT THOUGHT THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION COULD CAUSE A STIFFENING OF ATTITUDES.

8. I WILL ALSO RAISE MATTER WITH FAHMY WHEN I NEXT SEE
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HIM.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOYCOTTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 43697, 77 STATE 43693
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2954629
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARAB BOYCOTT CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL
TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, XF, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8d0d28ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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22 May 2009
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